

**ANG***Pahayagan sang Partido Komunista sang Pilipinas - Isla sang Negros
Ginaubayan sang Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo*

PAGHIMAKAS

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Build revolutionary strength in all aspects while defeating Oplan Kapayapaan! Oust the US-Duterte Regime!

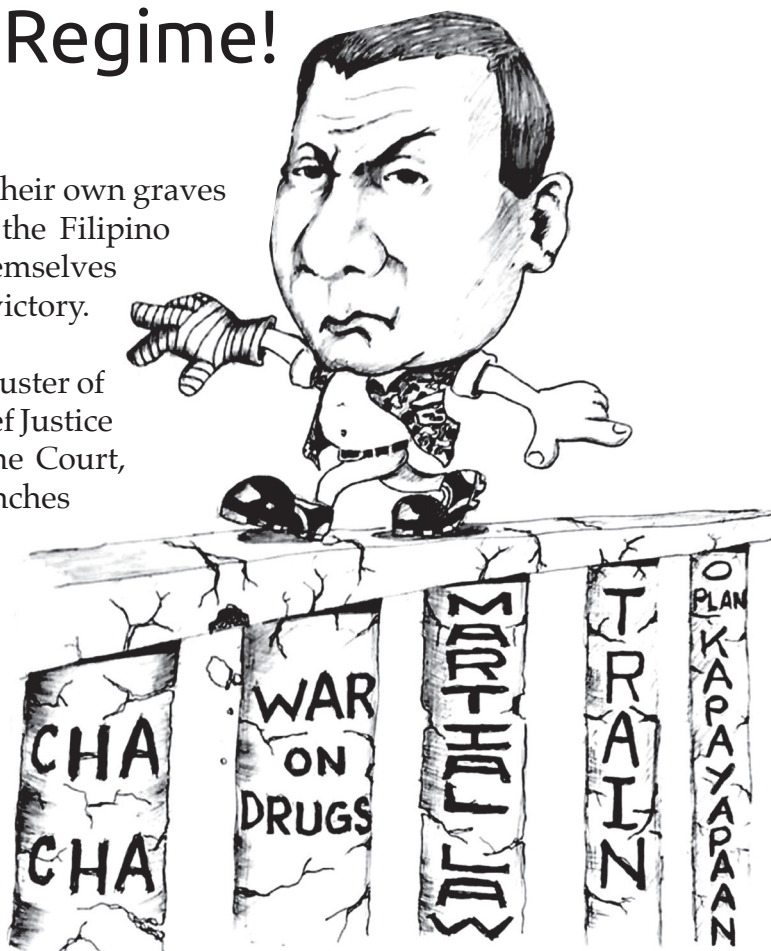
Rodrigo “Digong” Duterte and his cohorts dig their own graves by worsening the already severe crisis faced by the Filipino people. By fanning the anger of the masses, they themselves bring the national democratic revolution closer to victory.

Duterte has totally unmasked his “leftist” and “socialist” disguise. The first two years of his term has been marked by out-right puppetry to imperialism, fascism and warmongering, and bureaucrat capitalism.

He is bowing to US neoliberal dictates while kowtowing to China in the West Philippine Sea. He declared an all-out war against the poor in his anti-drugs and now anti-tambay campaign, against the Moro people in the destruction and demolition of Marawi City and the continuing onslaught of Moro groups; and against the Revolutionaries through Oplan Kapayapaan declaring to “flatten the hills” and eradicating the New People’s Army (NPA) by the end of 2018. The threat of nationwide Martial Law looms in the extension of Martial Law in Mindanao and, more so, in Duterte’s sabotage of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) - National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Peace Talks. The implementation of the anti-poor Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law early this year will amass billions for Duterte’s “Build, Build, Build” program which means billions for Duterte and his cliques’ pock-

ets. With the ouster of Sereno as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the three branches of government will soon be consolidated under Duterte’s control expediting his dictator ambitions. The move to shift to federalism merely sugarcoats Duterte’s cling to power.

The conditions in Negros mirrors that of the whole country. But during the *tiempo muerto* or *tigkiriwi* (dead season) of the sugarcane industry, from April to August each year, it is definitely worse. Throughout dead season where there is hardly work in the *haciendas*, sugar farm workers and their family endure hunger. This year their suffering doubles with the implementation of the TRAIN Law wherein the current price of basic goods have increased two-fold, not to mention the struggle of sending their children to school. Sideline farming, charcoal burning, oddjobbing and other



means to compensate their income no longer suffice. In reality *tiempo muerto* is not anymore limited to the period between planting and harvesting of sugarcane. The whole year is dead season for sugar workers with slave-like wages in dire work conditions, exploitative *pakyaw* rates, no benefits and contractual work. This situation is similar to other exploited sectors such as fisherfolk, workers in light industries, office workers, professionals, semi-proletarians, and other urban poor.

Although the Duterte administration claims that Negros is booming with the expansion of real estate and renewable ener-

gy companies and entry of the Business Process Outsourcing industry among other multinational investments, Negros is undeniably tethered to a monocrop industry in the era of neoliberalization. The more than 300,000 sugar workers (including children starting 10 years old) and even small planters in Negros fall victim to liberalization of agriculture and the entry of imported sweeteners such as high-fructose corn syrup. Yet the main problem is still feudalism where there is vast landlessness and massive land monopoly. Such social injustice has sown the seeds for revolution.

The ruling class led by Duterte is fully aware that Negros remains a social volcano. Thus, the Island is a priority of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in its anti-insurgency plan, Kapayapaan. In the first half of 2018, two Infantry Battalions (the 15th IB and 94th IB) were deployed to Negros to augment the existing battalions supervised by the 303rd Brigade, the 62nd IB assigned to Central Negros and 79th IB now in Northern Negros. The 15th IB is currently in Southern Negros while the 94th IB is stationed in Guihulngan City also covering

Central Negros. The deployment of almost 2,000 Philippine Army troops in Negros, as well as 2 geographical battalions, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and its Special Action Force Companies, only means intensified militarization in the countryside. Massive military operations is a serious burden to the people.

The local ruling class like Marañon, Cojuangco-Hinojales, Benitez, Lacson, Ledesma, Ferrer, Peña, Zayco and others in Negros Occidental and Degamo, Arnaiz, Teves, Paras, Limkaichong and others in Negros Oriental further sharpen exploitation and oppression in Negros with land grabbing, corruption and plunder. Their main priority are foreign investors and their own interests and businesses in effect sacrificing the welfare of the common Negrosanon. The destruction of the environment is also consequent to the entry of multinational corporations for so called "development" projects such as the Southern Negros Industrial Estate in Hinobaan, Negros Occidental and the Ilog-Hilabangan River Basin Project in Kabankalan City and Ilog, Negros Occidental. The AFP and PNP serve as goons of these families protecting their businesses, wealth and interests.

The provincial government headed by despotic landlord and bureaucrat capitalist Gov. Alfredo Marañon is a duplicate of the US-Duterte Regime's militarist approach in a civilian government. Retired Army Major General Jon Aying was hired by Marañon as consultant for internal security and public safety concerns with a monthly stipend of P42,000. A big disparity to the meager income of sugar workers who are the majority of the workforce in Negros. Marañon made Negros a laboratory for militariza-

tion in the countryside. He lauds the 303rd Brigade's ruthless pursuit of the NPA which in fact involves attacks and killings of civilians.

For the past six months, atrocities and human rights violations by the military in the countryside have been rampant such as extra judicial killings, forced-entry of houses in the middle of the night, intimidation of farmers to guide military operations otherwise coercing them to surrender as NPA members or sympathizers. There were also instances where farmers were threatened with trumped-up charges, or worse, to be killed, if they report to human rights groups and the media. There have also been forced disappearances and illegal arrests. There have been reports of the military encroaching public schools and occupying civilian dwellings. All these are in gross violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Last March, six young peasant organizers from the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas were arrested by the 62nd IB and accused as NPA elements in Mabinay, Negros Oriental. The "Mabinay 6" is still in detention despite evidence contradicting accusations against them. In May, two teenagers were captured by the 79th IB in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental still allegedly on the grounds of being NPA. The two were later rescued by human rights advocates in the 79th IB headquarters and were released due to lack of evidence. They exposed how their lives were threatened to force them to admit their association with the NPA.

In the towns and cities of Negros, similar to the other parts of the Philippines, a culture of impunity, fear and killing is occurring. Since Duterte became president, 27 peasant leaders have been murdered in Negros alone. Three were killed in the first half of 2018. The most recent was Julius Barellano, a local leader of



Sa pagpauswag sang aton Ang PAGHIMAKAS, ginapangabay sa tanan nga bumalasa sini nga mag-amot sang mga balita, piktyur, istorya kag iban pa nga sinulat. Ginapadangat man nga ang mga amot-sinulat mapadala isa ka bulan antes sang Marso, Hunyo, Septyembre, Desyembre sang kada kwarter. Nagapangayo man kami sang inyo mga suhestyon kag komentaryo paano pa gid ini pauswagon.



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the National Federation of Sugar Workers and radio reporter, who was gunned down last June 27 by unidentified guns-for-hire. According to reports, a businessman and influential politician in San Carlos City was behind the murder. Human rights advocates are also under fire. In December 2017, a fact-finding mission was attacked in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental killing Lisa Badayos of Karapatan-Central Visayas and her companion while a youth leader sustained a gunshot wound. Threats to the lives of activists go on as red-baiting continues. Akin to the Department of Justices' terrorist proscription petition red-tagging 656 individuals as officers and members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and NPA, in Magallon, Negros Occidental, posters containing photos of alleged rebels have been publicized by Magallon Mayor Magsie Peña and the PNP. Photos of known peasant leaders, lawyers, development workers and human rights advocates were included.

Duterte is not only waging all-out war in the battle zones but also in public opinion. Systematic and extensive propaganda, more appropriately called psychological operations and disinformation, is instigated by Duterte, his minions, and the AFP and PNP. The 303rd Brigade headed by Col. Alberto Desoyo and the army battalions under his command are mouthpieces of the US-Duterte fascist regime spreading intrigues and black propaganda against the revolutionary movement in the hope of dousing mass support for the revolution.

Until the root cause of armed conflict and civil war is not addressed, the people's war will persist. This fact eludes Duterte

and his pro-US militarist allies. His sabotage of the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations exposes his insincerity in tackling the heart of the peace talks, the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (mainly tackling Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and National Industrialization and Economic Development). He only uses the

peace process in his vain attempt to broker the capitulation of revolutionary forces. In contrast, the revolutionary movement recognizes peace talks with the GRP as a venue of struggle to achieve basic reforms. However it is clear to

all revolutionary forces that with or without peace talks, armed struggle remains the main and decisive form in the framework of national democratic revolution in a protracted people's war with a socialist perspective.

Therefore, it is crucial for all revolutionary forces within the region to continue expanding and consolidating our ranks along the national democratic line. Arouse, organize and mobilize the people in the countryside, towns and cities in great numbers for the revolution.

The NPA Guerilla Front Commands must work to intensify tactical offensives, annihilative and attritive, while frustrating enemy attacks. Not only expand but strengthen guerrilla zones, guerrilla bases and mass support. Unity and fighting spirit

must be heightened against enemy intrigues.

The US-Duterte regime's rottenness and its anti-national, anti-democratic, anti-people character must be widely exposed. A mass movement must be launched to protest and fight state fascism. Militarization, attacks against communities, mass leaders and activists, human rights violations, forced disappearances and extra judicial killings implemented under Oplan Kapayapaan must immediately be condemned in public. Likewise, the AFP and PNP's attempts to reinvent its repulsive and mercenary image as genuinely pro-people through so called "peace and development" activities, coerced or role-played mass surrenders, and doctored and fake accomplishments must also be exposed and condemned.

Duterte's maneuvers to stay in power such as the move to a federal form of government and to declare nationwide martial rule must be opposed and the call to end martial law in Mindanao stepped up.

Duterte follows the path of his hero, Dictator Ferdinand Marcos. And like Marcos, he will be ousted by a broad united front of all sectors, mainly the workers and peasants, who have suffered much under the Duterte regime. **AP**

